

Civic Engagement

April, 2007
Volume 2, Issue 3



Utah State Office of Education
Life Skills, Academic Service Learning



Contents

Building Relationships	1
Supporting Organizations	2
Summer Workshops	3
Welcome from UCCCSL	4
Great Resources	5

Man is a knot into
which relationships
are tied.

~Antoine de Saint-
Exupéry

Building Relationships

A few years ago, while working as a technology specialist for a school district, I ran across a quote in an ad in a technology magazine that I became quite taken with. The quote, from Michael Schrage, follows:

"It's time to stop thinking of computer networks and digital technologies as media for managing information and to start thinking of them as media to manage relationships."

I was left wondering exactly what the author meant. I believe that he was suggesting that human relationships were much more important than data gathering, and that technology was meant to serve that end.

Certainly, relationship building is a primary focus of civic education. Good citizens are involved in their communities, and are adept at developing and maintaining friendships that not only help them to accomplish their work, but make their lives much richer and more meaningful.

A common sentiment expressed at retirement celebrations is that those retiring will miss the good people that they worked with. Bonds formed while working together often transcend the workplace and develop into more permanent relationships.

On the practical side of things, work can definitely be accomplished more efficiently and effectively when people work well together. When each worker feels needed and appreciated, and committed to the task at hand, there is little that can stand in the way of successful achievement.

We spend a lot of time emphasizing to

students that they must be able to stand on their own and be responsible for their own actions. While this is a worthy goal of education, it is important as well for students to learn to work together and draw upon the resources of society. Good citizens are well acquainted with and effectively utilize the numerous organizations that contribute time and effort toward common goals and objectives. It is a democratic ideal that "many heads are better than one."

A primary goal of education is to prepare tomorrow's citizens to succeed in society. Students need to know of the tremendous human resources that exist around them and not be afraid to build meaningful relationships that develop trust and dependability. This issue of *Civic Engagement* lists numerous organizations that provide support, services and resources for civic educators.

—Alan Griffin

"It's time to stop thinking of computer networks and digital technologies as media for managing information and to start thinking of them as media to manage relationships."

--Michael Schrage

Utah Organizations Supporting Civic, Character and Service Learning

American Dream Foundation
Karen Gullo
gepetto@sprynet.com
801-479-4650
Create events for charity fundraising, scholarships for college students

Utah Law-Related Education Project
Kathy Dryer
IreKathy@icw.com
801-322-1802
We the People, Mock Trial, Project Citizen, Peer Court & other student programs

Community of Caring
Lisa Payne
lpayne@communityofcaring.org
801-587-8995
National whole school character education program

Hinckley Institute
Jayne Nelson
jnelson@hinckley.utah.edu
801-581-8501
Lectures, politics at U. of U., internship opportunities

Human Rights Education Center
Carla Kelley
carla@hrecutah.org
801-521-4283
Teaches anti-bullying and character education

Learning for Life
Darryl Alder
dalder@utahscouts.net
801-437-6208
K-12 Whole school character education program

Utah State Legislature
Utah's Legislators Back to School Program
Shelley Day
shelleyday@utah.gov
801-538-1032
Meaningful civic activities to engage students and legislators.

Life Skills, Academic Service Learning, USOE
Alan Griffin
alan.griffin@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7761
Civic & character education, Life Skills, and State Education
Agency for Learn and Serve grants

Office of the Attorney General
Helen Petersen, Administrative Assistant
hpetersen@utah.gov
(801) 538-1191
Information about law enforcement in schools

Prevention Dimensions, USOE
Verne Larsen
verne.larsen@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7713
School safety/prevention of tobacco, drug, and alcohol abuse

Salt Lake Center for Engaging Community
John Kesler
J_kesler@woodburycorp.com
801-994-3875
Bringing diverse groups together for the purpose of building community through cooperation and collaboration

Social Studies, USOE
Robert Austin
robert.austin@schools.utah.gov
801-538-7708
Social Studies curriculum and instruction, professional development

U.S. District Court for the District of Utah
Michelle Roybal
michelle_roybal@utd.uscourts.gov
801-524-6128
Courtroom visits, outreach services

Utah 3Rs project
Martha Ball
Martha3rs@msn.com
801-538-7503
Training in the essentials of the First Amendment, with particular emphasis on Respect, Rights, and Responsibility

Utah Campus Compact
Melissa Kincart
mmkincart@utahsbr.edu
801-366-8492
University students involved in citizenship through service

Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning
Kristie Fink
kristindfink@yahoo.com
801-916-2026
Dialogue on Democracy, teacher professional development, link to Commission on Civic and Character Education

Utah Commission on Volunteers
Kathy Smith
khyde@utah.gov
801-538-8664
Improve communities through service and volunteering.

Utah Education Network
Laura Hunter
lhunter@uen.org
Internet, PBS, video & multimedia resources for education

Utah League of Cities and Towns
Ken Bullock
kbullock@ulct.org
801-328-1601
Resources, curriculum for state & local government

Utah PTA
Debi Tabor, Student Involvement Commissioner
debi@taborengineering.com
801-230-3083
PTA support for school programs, Life Skills

Supporting Organizations (Cont.)

Utah State Bar
Richard Dibblee
Richard.dibblee@utahbar.org
801-297-7029
Licensing agency for legal profession

Utah State School Boards Association
Sarah Meier
Sarah.meier@granite.k12.ut.us
801-712-8727
School board support for civic education

Utah State Courts
Nancy Volmer
nancyv@email.utcourts.gov
801-578-3994
Judges for classroom visits, arrangements to visit courtrooms

Please note: This list is not meant to be comprehensive. Your suggestions of additional organizations are welcome!

Workshops and Professional Development

Spring and Summer 2007

Life Skills, Academic Service Learning, Civics, Character Education

Rural Schools—July 10th, 9-11 a.m.

Delicious and Nutritious—New Life Skills Techniques for Elementary Educators

Nourishing strategies that add excitement to the curriculum and climate of the elementary school. Participants will feast upon "Life Skills: A Guide to Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions for Success," and will be provided with an array of engaging activities to bring new meaning to existing elementary curriculum. Participants will be involved in activities that will help refocus efforts to educate the whole child, and promote the ideals of engaged citizenship. This presentation will introduce creative approaches to motivate and stimulate students to enjoy education through participation and involvement. To register, go to

<http://www.ursa.k12.ut.us/>

Rural Schools—July 11th, 9-11 a.m.

New Life Skills Techniques for Secondary Educators

A gourmet selection of activities to enliven the existing curriculum and climate of the school, while providing evidence of student progress toward potential and competency. This presentation will provide numerous applicable examples to teachers of all subjects at all levels. "Life Skills: A Guide to Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions for Success," will lay a foundation for educators to prepare students for active involvement in processes that add value to life. Special attention will be paid to documenting life skills domains required in the accreditation process. Techniques for enlisting community support and involvement will be suggested. To register, go to <http://www.ursa.k12.ut.us/>

Elementary Life Skills—June 19-20, Provo School District, 280 W. 940 N., Provo, UT

Activities shared to enrich existing curriculum with knowledge, skills, and dispositions for success. Numerous techniques will be demonstrated using the state Life Skills document. Participants will learn how to strengthen any curriculum with practical strategies that incorporate the 7 domain areas of Life Skills (Thinking and Reasoning, Social and Civic Responsibility, Character, Aesthetics, Communication, Systems Thinking, Employability). Special emphasis will be placed on integration into the Elementary Core Curriculum, with the goal of developing young children into actively involved citizens.

<http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/lifeskills/index.htm> (Registration Form)

Secondary Life Skills—June 21-22, Nebo Learning Center, 570 S. Main, Springville, UT

Going beyond Average Yearly Progress to the fundamental purposes of education. Participants will see how to meet the objectives of the accreditation process while stressing the importance of education for the whole child. Numerous strategies will be shared to enrich any existing curriculum. The 7 domain areas of Life Skills (Thinking and Reasoning, Social and Civic Responsibility, Character, Aesthetics, Communication, Systems Thinking, Employability) will be emphasized. Attendees will develop and share resources that can be adapted to various curriculums and grade levels.

<http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/lifeskills/index.htm> (Registration Form)

Life Skills for All—June 11, Salt Lake School District, 440 E. 100 S., SLC, UT

Many students come to class with unique needs. Some do not speak English as a native language, some come from conditions of poverty, some come from abusive or dysfunctional family situations, and some have physical and mental disabilities. Teachers can reasonably expect that 1/3 of their students require some kind of special accommodation to enable them to learn effectively. The seven domains of Life Skills (Thinking and Reasoning, Social and Civic Responsibility, Character, Aesthetics, Communication, Systems Thinking, and Employability) are the foundation for education in Utah. This one-day workshop will help teachers provide strategies and resources to assist students who have distinctive needs to reach the Life Skills goals of fulfilling potential and achieving competency. <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/lifeskills/index.htm> (Registration Form)

Civic Engagement, Page 4

The Branches of Civic Engagement—June 25-29, 2007 - Law and Justice Center, 650 S. 200 E., SLC, UT

Professional development for teachers of any secondary civics or American history-related course in the three branches of government. The workshop will provide a behind-the-scenes glimpse of state government at work, with special activities provided by the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government. Visits to government sites of interest, including the opportunity to attend a swearing-in ceremony of new citizens, will be highlights of this experience. This workshop promises to strengthen any teacher interested in helping students become actively engaged citizens. It is co-sponsored by the State Office of Education and the Utah Coalition for Civic, Character, and Service Learning.

[http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/ucccsi/Branches_of_Civic_Engagement_Flyer4%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/ucccsi/Branches_of_Civic_Engagement_Flyer4%20(2).pdf)

Academic Service Learning Grant Training

May 15, 2007—Sevier Education Center, 180 E. 600 N., Richfield, UT

May 16, 2007—Utah State Office of Education, 250 E. 500 S., SLC (South Board Room)

Step-by-step instruction in grant writing for academic service learning grants. Application forms will be distributed and guidelines provided. Training is open to district or school individuals or teams interested in becoming involved in academic service learning. Attendance at one of these trainings is required in order to be eligible for a grant award. E-mail to elaine.jones@schools.utah.gov.

Setting the Pace—A workshop for student teams and advisors in civic involvement and academic service learning

June 12-14, 2007—University of Utah

Teams of students from all over the state will participate in relationship-building activities to empower and engage youth in academic service learning. This workshop is co-sponsored by a number of youth organizations who collaborated on the agenda and activities. Former NFL Minnesota Vikings quarterback Keith Nord will lead the students and sponsors in interactive discussions and activities that promote student leadership, team-building, ethics, and engaging student voice. A \$500 fee is required to register four team members and an adult advisor for this on-campus experience.

<http://www.communityofcaring.org/ServicesAndResources/YouthConference/overview.html>

Welcome from the Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning

Dear Colleagues,

As the newly appointed executive director of the Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning, I want to convey the enthusiasm and commitment of the Coalition Board, under the direction of Utah Supreme Court Chief Justice Christine Durham, and the Commission on Civic and Character Education, under the direction of Lieutenant Governor Gary Herbert, to support schools in accomplishing their important mission through civic, character and service learning education in the state.

The Coalition provides this support through high quality resources, programs and activities that will help young people become better students, workers, citizens and human beings. It supports the The Utah State Core Curriculum and Life Skills, which teaches the knowledge, skills and dispositions that will help students become informed, responsible citizens, capable of contributing to our constitutional democracy. The organizations list in this newsletter is largely composed of Coalition members.

One of the Coalition's signature events is the annual "Dialogue on Democracy," which brings students, teachers and community leaders together to stimulate civic participation. The two-day event includes educator and student (secondary and university) workshops and culminates with a dinner program. The Coalition also features high quality staff development events, such as this summer's student-and-teacher workshop entitled "The Branches of Civic Engagement: A Civics Workshop for Teachers, Pre-Service Teachers and Secondary Students," which will give participants a glimpse behind the scenes of the three branches of state government.

The Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning is excited to have the opportunity to coordinate and mobilize program and human resources that support high quality civic education, and believes that together we can leverage opportunities for the benefit of students, who are our future citizens and the best hope for the continuing goodness and prosperity of our nation.

Best Wishes,

Kristie Fink

Executive Director, Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning

Please contact me with your suggestions and ideas at kristindfink@yahoo.com, 801-531-9077 or 801-916-2026



Patti Harrington, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Alan Griffin
Life Skills, Academic Service
Learning Specialist
Utah State Office of Education
250 E. 500 S.
Salt Lake City, UT
84114-4200

Phone:
(801) 538-7761

Fax:
(555) 538-7769

E-mail:
alan.griffin@schools.utah.gov

Character & Civics Education
Events Calendar:

http://www.schools.utah.gov/onlinewe/calendar.pl?Op=ShowIt&CalendarName=Character_and_Civics_Education

E-mail Lists:

Civics: civics@uen.org
Subscribe at
<http://lists.uen.org/mailman/listinfo/civics/>

Character Education:
chared@uen.org
Subscribe at
<http://lists.uen.org/mailman/listinfo/chared/>

Service Learning: sl@uen.org
Subscribe at
<http://lists.uen.org/mailman/listinfo/sl/>



Great Sites:

Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning
<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/ucccs/ucccs.html>

Making Civics Real: A Workshop for Teachers
<http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/civics/toolsforteaching/lessoncollect/>

Global Kids Connect: <http://www.globalkidsconnect.org/>

Great Web Resources for Teachers
<http://www.goodcharacter.com/TeacherResources.html>

Law Day Resource: "They H3ad a Dream Too" <http://www.theyhadadreamtoo.org>

USOE Websites:

Character Ed – http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/char_ed/default.htm

Civics – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/index.htm>

Service Learning – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/servicelearning/index.htm>

Life Skills – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/lifeskills/index.htm>